

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 11/25/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery Caldwell (805) 781-1728	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a new service contract (Clerk's File) for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs) Rapid Re-housing and Support Services with Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc., for FY 2014-15 in the amount of \$876,288. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a new service contract with Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO), for CalWORKs Rapid Re-housing and Support Services in the amount of \$876,288 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Federal and State	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$876,288	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$876,288	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001481		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: n/a <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: <u>10/7/2014</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Emily Jackson			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services/Trish Avery Caldwell
(805) 781-1728

DATE: 11/25/2014

SUBJECT: Request to approve a new service contract (Clerk's File) for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs) Rapid Re-housing and Support Services with Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc., for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$876,288.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a new service contract with Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO), for CalWORKs Rapid Re-housing and Support Services in the amount of \$876,288 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

DISCUSSION

In the 2013 US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/AHAR-2013-Part1.pdf>), it was noted that San Luis Obispo County has the third highest rate of *unsheltered* homeless persons out of any Continuum of Care (CoC) in the country, with ninety percent (90%) of its homeless population being unsheltered on any given night. In 2013, San Luis Obispo County identified an estimated 2,200 homeless persons; however, only 130 emergency shelter beds exist in our County. As a result, the overwhelming majority of homeless families in the County have no choice but to sleep in cars, tents or other places not intended for human habitation.

In addition to a lack of emergency shelter beds, transitional housing and affordable permanent housing are scarce as well. With the exception of housing for victims of domestic violence, there are only fifty (50) *transitional* housing beds in the entire County. However none of these beds are specifically for families and almost all CoC-funded *transitional* housing beds are currently occupied by single adults. Also, there are no CoC-funded *permanent* housing units targeted for families. In total there are an estimated twenty eight (28) CoC-funded *permanent* housing beds, all of which are currently occupied by single adults.

Other local resources aimed at assisting homeless families who lack adequate housing also fall short of meeting their needs. For example, Department of Social Services (DSS) operates state funded temporary and permanent Homeless Assistance programs, but the duration of these programs is often too short to stabilize families. In addition, DSS has a contract with the Housing Authority of the City of San Luis Obispo (HASLO) to assist with security deposits and eviction prevention funds. However, CalWORKs families must be in compliance with Welfare-to-Work (WTW) participation requirements to access these funds. There have been other housing programs for the homeless in the past, but funding continues to dwindle and the number of families needing help continues to grow faster than any other segment of the population.

To help address the local housing crisis for homeless families, DSS launched an innovative housing program in September 2014 and is providing a four-month rental assistance program to CalWORKs WTW families that are participating in Family Stabilization Services or WTW activities that lead to employment. To further expand its reach to families with shelter needs, DSS applied for, and received \$1,046,065 in grant funding from California Department of

Social Services (CDSS) to provide Rapid Re-housing and Support Assistance. The County was notified in September 2014 of the award. This funding has the flexibility to help stabilize CalWORKs WTW families and other CalWORKs families that do not qualify for WTW supportive services. To provide these new services the Board approved on October 7, 2014, Item # 34, the addition of 2.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Employment Resource Specialist (ERS) IV positions to implement the plan that focuses on three (3) subpopulations:

1. CalWORKs families participating in WTW and who have already received four-months of rental assistance but who need additional short term rental assistance in order to be stabilized in housing.
2. CalWORKs families with eligible children, but ineligible parents.
3. CalWORKs families participating in the WTW program who do not meet the eligibility requirements for the rental subsidy.

Families with minimal barriers will be served by DSS through case management, referrals, family and housing supports, and short term rental assistance. For WTW participants, if the parent is able to work but lacks job skills, the parent will be placed into subsidized employment. Families with parents who are disabled and unable to work, therefore ineligible to CalWORKs WTW supportive services including housing assistance, would receive bridge housing subsidies for up to one year and help with getting on waiting list(s) for project-based subsidized housing.

For families needing more intensive services, the two ERS IVs will serve as liaison to the non-profit providing intensive homeless services. DSS will track and report on housing outcomes and costs by subpopulation, assistance provided, and categories of housing barriers. DSS will also identify the percentage of households that remain housed after 12 months and households that have re-entered the homeless services system.

The Rapid Re-housing and Support services will utilize a progressive engagement model to provide short-term rental subsidies, housing identification and location assistance, and housing retention assistance. Once a family is identified, DSS staff will work with the family to complete a Housing Barrier Assessment (HBA). The HBA will identify specific barriers like credit history, criminal history, landlord-tenant issues, etc. Based on the barriers, a case manager will be assigned to work with a family and provide services that will help the family create a credible profile based on improved behaviors and expectations.

The County Administrative Office developed and released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for housing placement and supportive services for homeless individuals in March 2014 and received one proposal by the deadline in April 2014. The agency that applied was selected to provide housing placement and supportive services to clients housed under the local 100,000 Homes Campaign program which they have named "50Now." Unfortunately, the same agency does not have the ability to provide the CalWORKs homeless services outlined in the current grant. Therefore, based on the lack of response to the most recent homeless services RFP, the very short timeline to utilize the funding to house the local homeless population, and the fact that funding is one-time funding, the County has selected the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo, Inc. (CAPSLO) to administer the CalWORKs Housing Support Services program. This decision was made based on their long track record of providing homeless services, their expert knowledge of resources, and having the administrative support for handling the program needs. If funding is available in the future the County will conduct a new RFP.

The Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO), previously known as Economic Opportunity Commission of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (EOC), a private nonprofit, began providing services in San Luis Obispo County in 1965 for low-income individuals and families. Services offered include child care, homeless case management, shelter and food, home energy services, adult day care for the elderly or disabled, emergency intervention services, and other services focused on eliminating the causes of poverty. In 1989, CAPSLO Homeless Services program began to meet the needs of the homeless in our county by offering emergency shelter, on-site information and referral services, and assistance in finding permanent housing. Today the Prado Day Center located in San Luis Obispo provides direct support services to people experiencing homelessness. Services at the center include restrooms and showers, laundry facilities, health screenings, a hot lunch, referrals to other community resources, and supportive case management.

Specific to the contract CAPSLO will provide housing support services including housing identification, landlord

engagement, case management, rental and move-in assistance, and housing retention assistance including rental subsidies and financial assistance. Services will be focused on helping CalWORKs families improve the quality of life for young parents and their children.

For more information about services offered by CAPSLO you may visit their website at <http://www.capslo.org>.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

This contract was developed in partnership with CAPSLO and County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract as to legal form and effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The CDSS CalWORKs Housing Support Grant was approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 7, 2014, Item# 34. The total contract amount for FY 2014-2015 is \$876,288 for the term of the contract. The funding for this contract is included in the Department of Social Services adjusted budget for FY 2014-2015 and will require no additional General Fund support.

Agency	Budget FY 14-15	Notes	Sharing Ratios		
			Fed	St	Co
Community Action Partnership of SLO County	\$876,288	CalWORKs Housing Support Services	50%	50%	0%

RESULTS

CAPSLO will provide services to house one hundred and sixty (160) CalWORKs households by June 30, 2015.

CAPSLO will provide permanent housing subsidies or subsidized housing to an average of six (6) CalWORKs households per month that include an SSI recipient.

CAPSLO will provide services that result in eighty percent (80%) of households remaining placed in permanent housing at the end of the six-month contract.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment CAPSLO/CalWORKs Housing Support Program Clerk's File Statement